

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-11, 13 and 15 were rejected as being unpatentable over Myren in view of Sullins.

Claim 4 was rejected as being unpatentable over Myren and Sullins and further in view of Kupperman.

Claims 7 and 14 were rejected as being unpatentable over Myren and Sullins and further in view of Livshin.

Myren discloses a mitt for scrubbing a body, presumably a person's body (see below), and for that purpose has a pocket for containing and dispensing detergent, through "perforations 27 – that is, with the wearer moving his hand(s) in a container of water or beneath a shower" (col. 4, lines 15-23). In the present invention, (a) the reservoir is spread over virtually the whole palm side of the mitt and into the thumb portion, as described in the claims, an important feature because the mitt can be contorted due its flexibility to conform to the shape of the pet animal being groomed, and (b) the liquid is squeezed out of the mitt by forcing the palm side of the mitt into a concave shape. Neither or both of these features, including the extension of the reservoir into the thumb portion is suggested or taught in Myren or in any of the references of record.

Sullins has a car washing glove with a hose attachment and was cited for the "reservoir" extending from a top of a distal fingertip end to a bottom of a proximal wrist end adjacent to the open end of the body. The Examiner's statement that "Sullins teaches a car washing glove that can be used for washing a pet" is not understood since the

undersigned is unable to find such a statement or suggestion in the patent. Furthermore, "chamber 26" (col. 1, lines 58-60) can not be construed as a reservoir. According to The American Heritage Dictionary", pub. By Houghton Mifflin Co., a reservoir is a "receptacle or chamber for storing a fluid". In the reference, chamber 26 stores nothing. Its only purpose is to distribute the water coming through under pressure from the hose. When the hose is disconnected, the water presumably flows out of the chamber and disappears since there no discussion of keeping the water in the mitt, and, in fact, there would be no reason for keeping the water in the mitt once the hose is removed. In addition, one look at Fig. 5 clearly shows that the chamber does not extend from a fingertip end to a bottom of a proximal wrist end of the mitt.

As stated in the previous amendment, Kupperman et al has an abrasive hand covering and was cited for the concentric circles of cones. However in Kupperman these are not flexible bristles, only randomly placed disks with abrading surfaces protruding up therefrom, and Livshin illustrates a hand mitten and was cited for tab 44.

In order to more clearly distinguish the claims over the art of record, the independent claims 1 and 9 have been extensively amended and claim 3 replaced by a new method claim 35.

Claim 1 as amended is specific as to the extent of the reservoir including into the thumb portion and also recites "means for discharging fluid from said reservoir upon flexing of said mitt to form a concave configuration..." This avoids some of the functional language and recites these features in terms of structure. Also, the nibs are defined as being solid, to distinguish from the loops in Myren. This is a significant feature because the loops are too flexible for massaging the animal while the nibs perform that function

(see the specification, last line of page 8 over to the next page). As noted above, these features are not suggested or found in the art of record.

Claim 9 as amended recites that the thumb portion is "flexible". As pointed out in the specification, middle of page 10, this feature is important for use with smaller animals where more flexibility is required.

Since none of the basic references used to reject the claims has to do with a mitt specifically designed to groom pet animals, new claim 35 has been added to be more specifically directed to that aspect of the invention. The new claim recites the various steps involved in such a procedure and includes many of the details of the mitt which are recited in claims 1 and 9.

Depending claims 4, 6-8, 10, 11, and 13-15 add details which further distinguish over the art of record. For example, claim 4 is very specific as to the configuration of the nibs not suggested or taught in the art of record. Claim 6 adds the reservoir filling port with an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to the filling port also not found in the art of record. Contrary to the Examiner's statement, Myren's "one-way flap valve" (col. 4, lines 16-21) is not an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to the filling port. The flap is always attached. Depending claims 7 and 8, as well as the claims depending from claim 9, distinguish over the art of record for the above reasons and/or the fact that they depend on claims which distinguish over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is urged that the claims now in the application are drawn to patentable subject matter and should be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned in the event that further changes are required to obtain allowance of this application.

A favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alfred M. Walker".

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Dated: Aug. 1st, 2003



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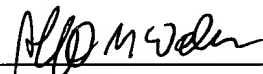
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